

REGIONAL PRACTITIONER DIALOGUE

COMMUNITY PARALEGALS, CUSTOMARY AND INFORMAL JUSTICE SYSTEMS, AND NEW PATHWAYS TO PEOPLE-CENTRED JUSTICE

Tuesday 31, August 2021 (9:00-13:00 CEST)

Agenda

Guiding questions for the Dialogue:

- What challenges do community paralegals operating in the context of customary and informal justice (CIJ) systems face in supporting the realization of rights and access to justice for the poor and most vulnerable?
- How can paralegals promote minimum standards in the operation of CIJ mechanisms, including protection for human rights and procedural safeguards for women and vulnerable groups?
- What are adequate legal, policy and institutional frameworks to regulate and support paralegal activities in the context of CIJ systems?
- How can we advance the role of community paralegals in promoting access to justice at the community level, including addressing local power dynamics and potential tensions with competing justice providers (e.g. CIJ actors)?
- How can paralegals contribute to improving cooperation and coherence between formal and CIJ systems?
- How can we increase effectiveness, reach and sustainability of community paralegal programs operating at the intersection of formal and CIJ systems?
- How can paralegals help foster transparency and accountability of legal and justice services provided at the community level, including by CIJ actors, and help measure progress towards the achievement of SDG 16?

TIME	ACTIVITY
9:00-9:10 am	Opening of Dialogue [<i>Elder Engineer Muiru Patrick, Secretary General of the Kenya National Council of Elders</i>] – 5 min Introductory remarks [<i>Overall Moderator: Mr. Romualdo Mavedzenge, IDLO Regional Program Manager, Africa Programs</i>] – 5 min: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Brief overview of the complexities of working with customary and informal justice (CIJ) systems, their importance for advancing SDG 16, and the role of community paralegals as facilitators of access to justice through CIJ systems;▪ Brief overview of IDLO’s work in this area (<u>including prior regional policy efforts in East Africa</u>);▪ Brief overview of the Dialogue’s agenda and objectives
9:10am-10:15am	DIALOGUE SESSION 1: Exploring the roles of community paralegals in pluralist legal systems
9:10-9:20 am	Launch of Working Paper on Community Paralegals and CIJ: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Brief overview of main findings of the research;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Brief overview of the Working Paper’s recommendations. <p><i>[the link to the publication will be shared with participants during this session]</i> <i>[Speaker: Ms. Raffaella Pizzamiglio, IDLO Research Specialist, Research and Learning]</i></p>
9:20-10:05	<p>Country Experiences:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Advantages of community paralegals compared to other legal service providers; ▪ Overview of key activities community paralegals undertake in pluralist legal systems; ▪ Overview of key challenges faced by community paralegals in their daily work, and in engaging with CIJ systems in particular. <p>4 Speakers: [present their work engaging with CIJ systems (stressing context specificities), 7-8 min. per speaker to address the three bullet points]</p> <p>- Mr. Ahmed Hassan, Puntland (Somalia) AGO Gender Advisor and Director of Legal Aid Clinic - Ms. Mary Airo, Coordinator of the Paralegal Society of Kenya (PSK) - M. Ibrahima Koreissi, National Coordinator, DEMESO, Mali - Atty. Margaret Nigba , Executive Director, Her Voice-Liberia</p> <p><i>[Moderator: Mr. Romualdo Mavedzenge, IDLO Regional Program Manager, Africa Programs]</i></p>
10:05-10:15	1 st Q&A Session
10:15-11:10 am	DIALOGUE SESSION 2: Community paralegals and CIJ from the perspectives of policymakers, regulators and other legal and justice stakeholders
10:15-11:00 am	<p>Facilitated dialogue:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Establishing comprehensive and adequate legal and institutional frameworks to regulate paralegals’ engagement with CIJ <i>[Speaker: Mr. Moses Okwalinga, CEO Uganda Law Society]</i> ▪ Ensuring quality standards in community paralegals’ activities and engagement with CIJ actors: the role of Legal Aid Boards <i>[Speaker: Ms. Fatmata Claire Hanciles, Executive Director, Sierra Leone Legal Aid Board]</i> ▪ The role of community paralegals in linking CIJ and formal justice systems and strategies to strengthen collaboration with legal professionals to facilitate access to justice for all <i>[Speaker: Cllr. Joyce Reeves-Woods, Head of the Legal Aid Clinic, National Bar Association of Liberia]</i> ▪ Fostering systematic data collection and reporting by community paralegals to strengthen transparency, accountability and enable evidence-based reform of pluralist legal systems <i>[Speaker: Clarisse Munezero, Senior Capacity Development Officer, Legal Aid Forum, Rwanda]</i> <p><i>[Moderator: Mr. Shirwa Jama, IDLO Country Director, Somalia Programs]</i></p>
11:00-11:10 am	2 nd Q&A Session
11:10-11:20 am	Coffee break

11:20am-12:15 pm	DIALOGUE SESSION 3: Addressing common challenges and learning from good practices in facilitating access to justice for all through community paralegals and CIJ systems
11:20am-12:05 pm	<p>Facilitated dialogue:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Navigating local power dynamics, tensions with CIJ actors and competing legal service providers [<i>Speaker: Mr. Clifford Msiska, Paralegal Advisory Service Institute, Malawi</i>] ▪ Community paralegals’s role in addressing harmful practices, gender discrimination and promoting women’s participation in CIJ systems [<i>Speaker : Mme, Julie Rose Ouedraogo, Magistrate at the Ouagadougou Court of Appeal and Vice President of the Association of Women Jurists of Burkina Faso</i>] ▪ Community paralegals’ support in upholding human rights protection and procedural safeguards for the vulnerable in CIJ systems [<i>Speaker: Mme Tani Abdokader, President of the Center for the Defense of Human Rights of Niger (CNDDH)</i>] ▪ Ensuring effectiveness, reach and sustainability of community paralegal programs operating at the intersection of formal and CIJ systems (focus on building partnerships and networks / innovative ways of leveraging resources) [<i>Speaker: Mr. Gard Ntegyereize Benda, Country Director World Voices Uganda</i>] <p>[<i>Moderator: Ms. Teresa Mugadza, IDLO Country Director, Kenya Programs</i>]</p>
12:05-12:15 pm	3 rd Q&A Session
12:15-01:00 pm	<p>Closing remarks and opening of final discussion [<i>Overall Moderator: Romualdo Mavedzenge, IDLO Regional Program Manager, Africa Programs</i>] – 5 min</p> <p>Open discussion on any remaining aspects to address, perspectives unheard and key action points and recommendations to advance access to justice and the attainment of SDG 16 in Sub Saharan Africa through community paralegals and CIJ systems [<i>ALL SPEAKERS</i>]</p>